

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| In re patent application of: |) | Before the Examiner: |
| Lehmann K. Li |) | (Unassigned) |
| |) | |
| Serial No. New UTILITY Application |) | Group Art Unit |
| |) | (Unassigned) |
| Filed: March 18, 2004 |) | |
| |) | Ref. No.: 4002-3122/PC830.00 |
| SUTURE ANCHORING SYSTEM |) | |
| AND METHOD |) | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure embodied in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Examiner the items of information listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Citation form. Copies of the U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent application publications listed in this IDS form are not being provided herewith since the requirements for submitting such documents under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) have been waived with regard to applications filed or nationalized subsequent to June 30, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement
SUTURE ANCHORING SYSTEM AND METHOD
Filed March 18, 2004
Inventor: Lehmann K. Li
Page 1 of 2

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Brad A. Schepers

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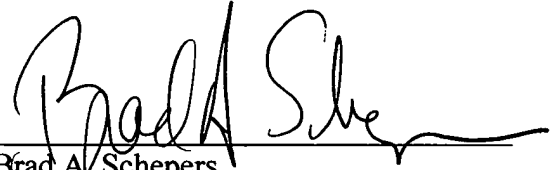
March 18, 2004

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This Statement is being submitted under 37 CFR 1.97(b) before the occurrence of one or more of the following: (a) receipt of a First Office Action on the merits, (b) passage of three (3) months from the application filing date, or passage of three (3) months from the date entry of the national stage. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee is due. However, should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | <i>Complete if Known</i> | |
| | | | | Application Number | New UTILITY Application |
| | | | | Filing Date | March 18, 2004 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Lehmann K. Li |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | Unassigned |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Unassigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 4002-3122/PC830.00 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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